GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2175
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Industry Status to Agriculture Sector
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural sector is becoming an unremunerative profession of the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to ameliorate the dismal condition of farmers and agriculture sector in the country;

(c) whether there have been demands from various quarters for according industry status to agriculture and having separate budget for agriculture sector and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to attract investment and improve the growth rate in the agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the investment/funds sanctioned for the purpose during the said period and the achievements therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): As per Agriculture Census 2010-11, about 85 per cent of the operational holdings are held by small and marginal farmers in the country. Such holdings are generally too small to generate sufficient income for the farmers.

In order to improve the condition of farmers, several measures have been taken by the government which includes, inter-alia, promotion of integrated farming, improving soil health, creation of efficient marketing infrastructure, timely delivery of credit, technology and other inputs, etc. Government has also focused on the aggregation of small and marginal farmers into groups for overcoming market imperfections and to realize better prices for their produce.

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(c): Union Government receives representations from time to time on various issues concerning the agriculture sector. In order to protect the interest of farmers, a number of schemes/programmes are being implemented to supplement the efforts of State Governments towards making agriculture viable.

(d) & (e): Government has taken several steps to attract investment in the agriculture sector by focusing on improving irrigation practices, developing warehousing infrastructure for increasing shelf life of agricultural produce, setting up of Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund, promoting commercial organic farming, increasing institutional credit to farmers, progressive increase in Minimum Support Prices, etc.

Schemes like, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Heath Card and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), etc., are being implemented in convergent framework to increase investment and growth rate in the agriculture sector.

Details of funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred under these major schemes during the last three years are given in the Annexure.